AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-44. **(Canceled)**

45. **(New)** A content management apparatus that manages content duplications performed on an apparatus connected to a network, the content management apparatus comprising:

a holding unit operable to hold duplication restriction information indicating (i) a content identifier for identifying a content, (ii) an in-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted content duplications, and (iii) an out-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted duplications, the in-group remaining number and the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier;

a request receiving unit operable to receive, from the apparatus, a management request including the content identifier;

a group judging unit operable to judge whether the apparatus that has made the management request belongs to a predetermined group; and

a management unit operable to (i) manage duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the in-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) manage duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

46. **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, wherein

said management unit, when the management request that has been made is a duplication request for duplicating the content and

if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, (i) duplicates the content identified by the content identifier, for the apparatus that has made the management request, and subtracts a predetermined value from the in-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier included in the management request, if the in-group

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remaining number is not "0," and (ii) rejects the management request if the in-group remaining number is "0," and

if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged not to belong to the group, (i) duplicates the content identified by the content identifier, for the apparatus that has made the management request, and subtracts a predetermined value from the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier included in the management request, if the out-group remaining number is not "0," and (ii) rejects the management request if the out-group remaining number is "0."

47. **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 46, wherein
said management unit, when the management request that has been made is a deletion request for deleting the content, (i) adds the predetermined value to the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) adds the predetermined value to the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

48. **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:
an acquisition unit operable to acquire a start time of a processing pertaining to the management request of the content; and
a time management unit operable to output an operation instruction to said management unit at the start time, wherein
said management unit, upon receipt of the operation instruction, (i) manages the number of content duplications performed on the apparatus based on the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus is judged to belong to the group by said group judging unit, and (ii) manages the number of content duplications performed on the apparatus based on the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus is judged to not belong to the group by said group judging unit.

49. **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:
an acquisition unit operable to acquire a usage expiration date of the content;

and

a time management unit operable to output an operation instruction to said management unit when the usage expiration date has passed, wherein

said management unit, upon receipt of the operation instruction, (i) manages the number of content duplications performed on the apparatus based on the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus is judged to belong to the group by said group judging unit, and (ii) manages the number of content duplications performed on the apparatus based on the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus is judged to not belong to the group by said group judging unit.

50.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, wherein

said management unit further notifies, to the apparatus, transfer information indicating (i) a number that is less than or equal to the in-group remaining number and (ii) a number that is less than or equal to the out-group remaining number, and subtracts the numbers indicated by the transfer information from the in-group remaining number and the out-group remaining number.

51.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprises:

an acquisition unit operable to acquire duplication-generation information relating to the content, wherein

said management unit (i) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the duplication-generation information and the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the duplication-generation information and the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

52.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

an acquisition unit operable to acquire request-apparatus information unique to the apparatus and a revocation list indicating one or more apparatuses to which content duplication is

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not permitted, wherein

said management unit (i) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the request-apparatus information, the revocation list, duplication-generation information and the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the request-apparatus information, the revocation list, the duplication-generation information and the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

53.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

an acquisition unit operable to acquire request-area information indicating an area relating to the apparatus, wherein

said management unit (i) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the request-area information and the in-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) manages the duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, based on the request-area information and the out-group remaining number, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

54.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

an authentication unit operable to share a session key with the apparatus by conducting authentication processing with the apparatus; and

an encryption/decryption unit operable, if authentication is successful, to encrypt and decrypt communication with the apparatus using the session key.

55.   **(New)** The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

a request accumulation unit operable to manage one of a duplication request and a

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deletion request using a request-arrival sequence queue, and to have said management unit execute a deletion request that is subsequent in the queue to the duplication request, prior to the duplication request, wherein

said request receiving unit receives the management request that is at least one of a duplication request and a deletion request.

56.   (New) The content management apparatus of claim 45, further comprising an acquisition unit, wherein

the network is a home network connected to an external network, said acquisition unit acquires the content from outside the home network, and said group judging unit judges apparatuses connected to the home network as belonging to the group.

57.   (New) A content management method for managing content duplications performed on an apparatus connected to a network, the method comprising:

holding duplication restriction information indicating (i) a content identifier for identifying a content, (ii) an in-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted content duplications, and (iii) an out-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted duplications, the in-group remaining number and the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier;

receiving, from the apparatus, a management request including the content identifier:

judging whether the apparatus that has made the management request belongs to a predetermined group; and

managing (i) duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the in-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

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58.   **(New)** A content management program applied in a content management apparatus that manages content duplications performed on an apparatus connected to a network, the method comprising:

holding duplication restriction information indicating (i) a content identifier for identifying a content, (ii) an in-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted content duplications, and (iii) an out-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted duplications, the in-group remaining number and the put-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier;

receiving, from the apparatus, a management request including the content identifier;

judging whether the apparatus that has made the management request belongs to a predetermined group; and

managing (i) duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the in-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

59.   **(New)** A content management system comprising an apparatus and a content management apparatus that manages content duplications performed on the apparatus connected to a network, the content management apparatus comprising:

a holding unit operable to hold duplication restriction information indicating (i) a content identifier for identifying a content, (ii) an in-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted content duplications, and (iii) an out-group remaining number indicating a value of a number of permitted duplications, the in-group remaining number and the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier;

a request receiving unit operable to receive, from the apparatus, a management request

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including the content identifier;

a group judging unit operable to judge whether the apparatus that has made the management request belongs to a predetermined group; and

a management unit operable to (i) manage duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the in-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to belong to the group, and (ii) manage duplication of the content identified by the content identifier included in the management request, with use of the out-group remaining number corresponding to the content identifier, if the apparatus that has made the management request is judged to not belong to the group.

60.   **(New)** The content management system of claim 59, wherein

the content management apparatus requests an accounting system to manage accounting.